

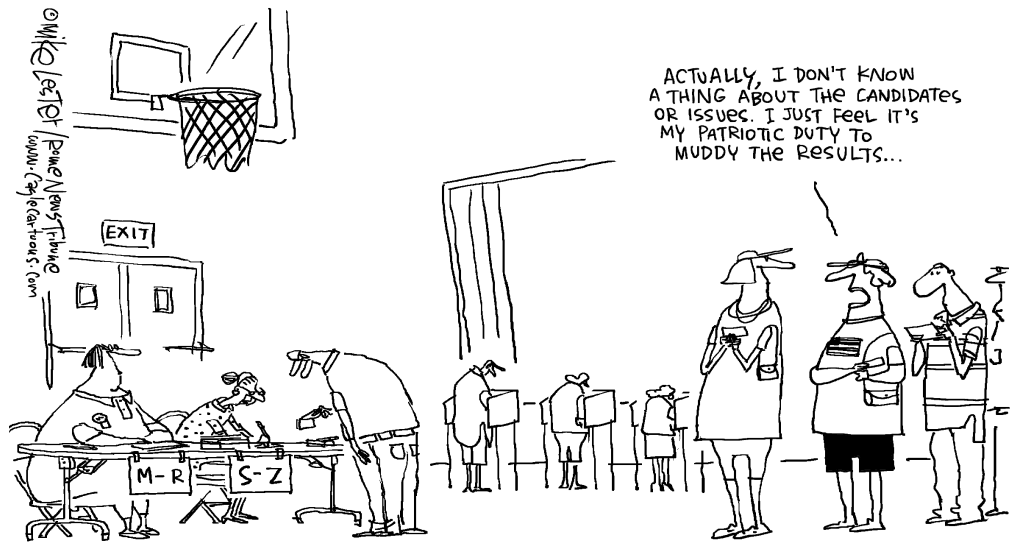
Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Between the lines

Control of Congress is at stake for Democrats and Republicans in the midterm elections on Nov. 7:

- ▶ All 435 House of Representatives seats, 33 of 100 Senate seats and 36 state governorships are at stake
- ▶ Democrats must pick up 15 House seats and six Senate seats to reclaim control of Congress from Republicans.



An educated (?) electorate takes its mid-term

Talking points

1. We're deluged with negative campaign ads, reasoned endorsements, annoying recorded telephone messages and fevered predictions by pollster after pollster. Does this flood of information (and misinformation) contribute to an "educated electorate?" Who's running for what office in your part of the country? Name all the candidates and positions that are up for grabs. What issues are on your local ballot? Which candidates and which issues does your newspaper support?
2. Brian Fairrington's toon brings up an interesting issue: How much influence does a celebrity endorsement have? Which celebrities would YOU listen to? What gives them authority?
3. Mike Lester points out the reason we still hold elections despite what pollsters predict. Are pollsters ever wrong? What effect can that have on results or turnout in elections?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the mid-term elections. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the artist's point of view.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Mike Lester
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/lester.asp>

More by Brian Fairrington
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/fairrington.asp>